

**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife, the putty knife having a handle and a blade, comprising:

a chart defining flexibility of the blade by use of a first group of colors;

the handle including a first portion with a color chosen from the first group of colors indicating the blade flexibility;

the blade connected with the handle having the flexibility as indicated by the color of the first portion of the handle; and

a label disposed onto the blade having an icon illustrating a portion of a putty knife in the same color as the color of the first portion of the handle.

22. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 21, wherein the chart further includes a second group of colors to define the handle size.

23. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 21, wherein the handle further includes a second portion with a color chosen from a second group of colors indicating the handle size.

24. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first and second portions are integrally molded members, the second portion covering the first portion and dyed in a color chosen from the second group of colors indicating the handle size, the second portion having at least one window to show the color of the first portion.

25. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 21, wherein the label is a self adhering label which further includes a box having a background color same as the first portion with indicia illustrating the blade flexibility.

26. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 21, wherein the chart further shows corresponding function for each color defined in the chart.

27. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a putty knife as claimed in claim 21, wherein said label including said color chosen from said first group of colors indicating the blade flexibility.

28. (New) A color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool, the hand tool including a handle and an operative member, comprising:

the handle including a first color chosen from a first group of colors indicating an operating characteristic of the operative member; and

the operative member connected with the handle, corresponding to the operating characteristic as indicated by the first color of the handle; the operative member is a blade; and said handle is color coded with the first color to identify blade flexibility.

29. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 28, further comprising a chart defining the operating characteristic of the operative member by use of the first group of colors.

30. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 28, wherein the handle includes a second color chosen from a second group of colors indicating the handle size.

31. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 28, further comprising a label disposed onto the operative member, said label having said color chosen from said first group of colors indicating said blade flexibility of said blade.

32. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 31, wherein said label having an icon illustrating a portion of said hand tool in the same general color as the first color.

33. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 32, wherein the icon shows the operative member of the hand tool in its intended use.

34. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 28, wherein the handle is an integrally molded color handle having the first color.

35. (New) A color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool, the hand tool including a handle and an operative member, comprising:

the handle including a first portion with a color chosen from a first group of colors indicating an operating characteristic of the operative member, and a second portion covering the first portion of the handle and having at least one window to show the first portion; and

the operative member connected with the handle, the operative member is a blade and corresponds to the operating characteristic as indicated by the color of the first portion.

36. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 35, wherein the second portion of the handle has a color chosen from a second group of colors indicating the handle size.

37. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 36, further comprising a chart defining the handle size by use of the second group of colors.

38. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 35, wherein the operating characteristic is the blade flexibility.

39. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 35, further comprising a chart defining the operating characteristic of the operative member by use of the first group of colors.

40. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 35, further comprising a label disposed onto said operative member, said label having said color chosen from said first group of colors indicating said operating characteristic of said blade.

41. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 40, wherein said label having an icon illustrating a portion of said hand tool in the same general color as the first portion.

42. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 35, wherein the first and second portions are integrally molded members, and the second portion being molded over the first portion.

43. (New) The color coded identification system for identifying a hand tool as claimed in claim 42, wherein the first portion is an integrally molded color portion having the color chosen from the first group of colors.

44. (New) A putty knife comprising:  
a handle and a blade;  
the handle including a first portion with a color chosen from a first group of colors indicating a blade flexibility of the blade; and  
the blade connected with the handle having the flexibility as indicated by the color of the first portion of the handle.